

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 COME-00 SS-15

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O 161520Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2281

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA TECH UR US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CONSTRUCTION OF FERTILIZER FACILITIES

REF: A. MSOCOW 9509; B. STATE 144897

SUMMARY. SCST NEEDS ACCEPTANCE OF VISIT ITINERARY AND  
CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL DATES FOR SUBJECT US DELEGATION.  
SCST HAS RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FROM HOSTING MINISTRY  
THAT US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS BE LIMITED TO SEVEN MEMBERS  
EACH. GUIDANCE SOUGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 15, SCIOFF MET AT SCST WITH AYKAZYAN AND  
MURZANYEVA, AYKAZYAN NOTED IMMEDIATELY THAT HE REQUESTED  
URGENT MEETING TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN THE EXCHANGE IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF FERTILIZER FACILITIES.

2. AYKAZYAN REVIEWED HISTORY OF PLANNING OF THIS EXCHANGE  
SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1973, STRESSING THAT THERE HAD BEEN  
MANY DELAYS IN EXECUTING THE EXCHANGE. THERE HAD EVEN BEEN  
A US-REQUESTED CHANGE IN SUBJECT EMPHASIS TOWARD MINING AND  
PROCESSING, AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL THEME OF CONSTRUCTION AND  
DESIGN. THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CHANGE AND ADJUSTED THE  
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VISIT PROGRAM TO FIT IT. NOTING THAT THIS PROGRAM IS A

THOROUGH ONE BUT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULES, AYKAZYAN STATED THAT US ACCEPTANCE OF ITINERARY AND CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL DATES ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY.

3. TURNING TO THE OTHER "PROBLEM," AYKAZYAN STATED THAT SCST HAD RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM THE HOST MINISTRY (CONSTRUCTION OF HEAVY-INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES) THAT US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS EACH BE LIMITED TO SEVEN PERSONS. AYKAZYAN SAID HE MUST PASS THIS REQUEST TO THE AMERICAN SIDE.

4. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, AYKAZYAN SAID THAT SOVIET INTEREST IN THE EXCHANGE HAD BEEN QUITE HIGH AT INCEPTION, BUT THAT DURING THE LONG PERIOD THAT THE EXCHANGE WAS DELAYED, THE SOVIET SIDE HAD TURNED TO DIRECT COMMERCIAL CONTACTS WITH COMPANIES ACTIVE IN THE SUBJECT AREA. HE SAID THAT THESE PROGRAMS ARE FLOURISHING, AND NOTED ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN PHOSPHATES WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM. BECAUSE THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY TAKING MUCH TIME OF THE CONCERNED SOVIET OFFICIALS, AND ALSO BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE ALREADY SATISFYING THEIR GOALS THROUGH THESE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, AYKAZYAN OBSERVED THAT SOVIET-SIDE INTEREST IN THE EXCHANGE IS NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS.

5. SCIOFF REVIEWED RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON EXCHANGES, POINTING OUT THAT PLANNED US DELEGATION INCLUDES SPOKESMEN FOR IMPORTANT COMPANIES IN THE FIELD, AND THAT SOVIETS COULD WELL FIND CONTACT WITH THEM MOST USEFUL. CITING AIDE-MEMOIRE EX-10 OF 8 MARCH 1974, SCIOFF OBSERVED THAT WHEREAS FOURTEEN MIGHT NOT BE BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN (MURZANYEVA'S POINT, REF A), NEITHER WAS SEVEN, AND THAT SOVIETS WERE MAKING VERY LARGE REQUEST OF US SIDE SINCE DATE IS VERY LATE AND POTENTIAL US DELEGATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED AND ARE DOUBTLESS PLANNING TO COME.

6. AYKAZYAN SAID SCST IS PREPARED TO INSIST THAT MINISTRY ADHERE TO AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT MINIMUM OF EIGHT, AND HE ADDED THAT SOVIET SIDE WILL PROVIDE FULL-TIME INTERPRETER.

7. COMMENT: AYKAZYAN WAS CLEARLY DISCOMFITTED IN INTRODUCING SUBJECT OF DELEGATION-SIZE LIMIT. HE APPEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE IN A BIND BETWEEN MINISTRY PRESSURE TO DECREASE AND US PRESSURE TO INCREASE DELEGATION SIZE. BELIEVE DELEGATION SIZE IN EXCESS OF TEN IS NOW PRECLUDED, BUT US CAN STILL INSIST ON EIGHT TO TEN AND ATTEMPT ARRANGE SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES THROUGH REGULAR COMMERCIAL CONTACTS.

8. FYI: IN RESPONSE TO SCIOFF QUESTION, AYKAZYAN AND MURZANYEVA STATED THAT, TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THE SOVIETS

HAD HAD NO REGULAR COMMERCIAL CONTACTS WITH ANY OF THE US COMPANIES PROSPECTIVELY REPRESENTED (LETTER TO MURZANYEVA FROM REF B), WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF KELLOGG AND ALLIED CHEMICAL, WITH WHOM SOVIET CONTACTS HAD BEEN NUMEROUS. AYKAZYAN STRESSED THAT HE SPECIFICALLY WISHED TO AVOID ANY SOVIET INPUT ON SELECTION OF SPECIFIC AMERICAN DELEGATES, BUT HE ANSWERED SCIOFF QUESTION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.

9. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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